Nixon Vetoes Minimum Pay Bill

Associated Press

President Nixon yesterday vetoed a bill to raise the federal minimum wage to $2.20 an hour, and called on Congress to pass a new, and less extensive, bill this year.

He said the measure approved by Congress "would unfortunately do far more harm than good. It would cause unemployment. It is inflationary and it hurts those who can least afford it."

The House scheduled a vote Sept. 19 on a motion to override the veto, which is expected to survive.

The President said the bill supported by the administration would increase the present $1.60 minimum wage for most nonfarm workers to $1.90 immediately and then to $2.30 over the next three years.

The bill approved by Congress would have boosted the minimum wage to $2.20 next July 1 and also bring seven million new workers under the program. Now, about 49.5 million workers are covered.